

People



Mike Ratchford joins Argenta Discovery

Argenta Discovery (Dagenham, UK) has recently announced the appointment of Michael F. Ratchford as

President of Argenta US. Ratchford joins the company from being Senior Vice-President of Business Development at Evotec OAI and gained key skills in deal-making while at Oxford Asymmetry International (OAI) before its merger with Evotec. He also previously set up his own custom chemical company, AJ Chemicals, which was later acquired by Catalytica Pharmaceuticals.

Anthony Baxter, CEO of Argenta Discovery said, 'Mike... has a first-rate track record in developing contract research businesses to serve the drug discovery market, and a well-deserved reputation for effective project management.'

New Hybridon CEO

Stephen R. Seiler, the former Executive Vice-President of Planning Investment and Development at Elan Corporation (Dublin, Ireland), has recently been appointed as CEO of Hybridon (Cambridge, MA, USA) and will join the company's Board of Directors. Before joining Elan, he was Head of Pharmaceutical Investment Banking at Paribas (London, UK). At the time of Seiler's agreement to join the company, he purchased 510,000 shares of Hybridon common shares from the company for cash at market.

New CEO for Fujisawa Healthcare

Fujisawa Healthcare (FHI; Deerfield, IL, USA), a subsidiary of Fujisawa Pharmaceutical Co. (Osaka, Japan), has appointed Hideo Fukumoto to the position of President and CEO of FHI. He has been President of the company since April 2001, but now takes over the position of CEO from Noboru Maeda who is returning to Japan. Maeda will remain Chairman of the Board of FHI and Corporate Executive Vice-

President at Fujisawa Pharmaceutical Co. Fukumoto has 30 years of experience at Fujisawa Pharmaceutical Co. in a variety of positions in business development, R&D planning, new product acquisition and licensing, and clinical research.

Hans-Peter Hasler joins Bio

Hans-Peter Hasler has joined Biogen (Cambridge, MA, USA) as Executive Vice-President of Commercial Operations. He was previously at Wyeth-Ayerst Pharmaceuticals (St David's, PA, USA), where he was Senior Vice-President, Head of Global Strategic Marketing, Chair of the Commercial Council and a member of the Wyeth/AHP (American Home Products, Wyeth's parent company) Executive Committee. Before this, he has served as Managing Director of Wyeth Group, General Manager AHP/Wyeth in Switzerland and Central Eastern Europe, and Head of the Pharma Division at Abbott AG in Switzerland.

James C. Mullen, President and CEO of Biogen said, '[Hans-Peter] brings... a record of accomplishment in a diverse international pharmaceutical environment. Hans-Peter has demonstrated the critical operating and strategic skills in building and leading an organization across multi-functional, multi-cultural teams which we believe will accelerate Biogen's global commercial growth well into the future.'

Douglas Modlin moves to new microfluidics company

Douglas N. Modlin, former Vice-President of Instrumentation Technology Research and Development at Molecular Devices Corp., has recently joined the microfluidics company, Fluidigm Corp. (formerly Mycometrix; South San Francisco, CA, USA) as Vice-President of Research and Development. Modlin has previously held positions at a variety of different types of companies such as life science tool providers [e.g. LJI BioSystems (before its merge with Molecular Devices), Affymax and Affymetrix], and microelectronics and computer technology companies such as Digital Equipment Corp.

Gajus Worthington, President, CEO and co-founder of Fluidigm commented that

'Doug... has an unparalleled background which includes leadership roles in growing life science, drug discovery, biochip and microelectronic research and development programs.'

New CEO at Psychiatric Genomics

Psychiatric Genomics (PGI; Gaithersburg, MA, USA) has appointed Richard E. Chipkin as their new CEO. Chipkin comes to the job from Schering-Plough Corp., where he worked for more than 20 years, holding positions in preclinical and clinical neuropharmacology research, as well as, most recently, in the Global Business Development Group. Alan Walton from Oxford Bioscience Partners and Chairman of the Board of PGI said, 'Richard's extensive interdisciplinary experience in the pharmaceutical industry, including a successful business development career in product licensing and acquisition as well as a distinguished research career in preclinical and clinical neuropharmacology, provides extraordinary depth to PGI.'

Two key appointments at Myriad Pharmaceuticals

Edward A. Swabb has joined Myriad Pharmaceuticals (Salt Lake City, UT, USA; a subsidiary of Myriad Genetics) as Senior Vice-President and Head of Development of its subsidiary. In doing so, he leaves his current position of Executive Director of Clinical Research at Pharmacia Corporation (formerly G.D. Searle and Co., a division of Monsanto) where he directed the review of clinical safety data of Celebrex leading to its approval, and designed and implemented Phase II and III global studies of tifacogin for severe sepsis. Swabb previously directed Phase I-IV studies of Azactam at E.R. Squibb & Sons and worked as a postgraduate researcher at Walter Reed Army Institute of Research while as a Captain in the US Army.

The company has also announced that Mary-Helen Binger will join the company as Director of Clinical Development, after working for the Searle Unit of the Pharmacia Corporation as Assistant Director of Clinical Oncology and Chemoprevention.

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